Data General microNova

New Product Announcement

An improved microNova microprocessor and two microNova computer series based on board-level and packaged systems have been announced by Data General. The two compatible series offer more compact packaging, more economy, and up to three times the performance of previous microNova products, according to Data General. Like the rest of the microNova family, the new hardware is designed for OEM applications. It is software- and I/O-compatible with previous microNova products, while offering reduced board sizes, lower power consumption, and substantial price/performance improvements. Data General states that the new products are directed against Digital Equipment's LSI-11, Texas Instruments' 9900 family, and the Intel 8612 series.

The MP/100 series product line consists of the microNova mN602 microprocessor, the board-level MP/100 System Processing Unit (SPU), and the packaged MP/100 in an 8-slot chassis. The MP/200 series consists of the board-level MP/200 SPU, the packaged MP/200 in an 8-slot chassis, and the fully packaged MP/200 in a half-bay cabinet with a choice of peripherals.

The mN602 microprocessor is a single 40-pin package that features the full Nova multifunction instruction set, hardware and frame pointer, 16-level priority interrupt, real-time clock, and hardware multiply/divide. The mN602 also includes the following features not found on its predecessor, the mN601: a standard data channel as well as a 2-megabyte/second direct memory access channel, asynchronous memory to allow use of EPROM as well as PROM memories, support for up to 128K bytes of memory, and an integral power monitor.

The MP/100 board-level SPU combines the mN602 chip with an asynchronous interface, automatic program load, and soft control panel on a 7.5-by-9.5-inch board. The soft control panel allows any ASCII console to supervise program execution, examine and modify memory and CPU registers, and support automatic program loading from any device. RAM boards of the same size are available with 8K, 16K, 32K, and 64K bytes, as are 8K and 16K PROM boards. RAM/EPROM boards with 8K or 32K bytes of RAM and sockets for 32K bytes of EPROM are also available.

The MP/100 is designed for instrumentation, remote data acquisition, and process control applications, as was the original microNova line. Its main attractions are the reduction in size from six or seven boards for a typical configuration to only two boards plus the reduction in price from the $4,000-plus range to less than $3,000.

The MP/200 is a bipolar implementation of the microNova architecture, featuring approximately three times the performance of the MP/100. It is designed for dedicated business and communications applications. Data General states that the MP/200 is rated at roughly the same performance as the Nova 4/X small computer it introduced late last year.

The MP/200, like the MP/100, is available on a 7.5-by-9.5-inch board. It executes an add in 840 nanoseconds and a multiply in 4.92 microseconds, 3 and 10 times faster, respectively, than previous microNova products. The MP/200 also provides a faster, 3.7-megabyte/second direct memory access channel and an extended instruction set that includes byte manipulation and multiply/divide operations. An optional basic controller board adds an asynchronous interface with full modem control, power fail/auto restart, automatic program load, programmable real-time clock, and a control panel.

Optional communications, sensor I/O, and terminal interfaces are available for both the MP/100 and MP/200. They include single- and multi-line asynchronous and synchronous controllers; single-card A/D, D/A, and digital I/O interfaces and subsystems; and line printer and peripheral interfaces.

Software support for the new microNova products includes the firm's Disk Operating System (DOS) and Real-Time Operating System (RTOS); the Extended BASIC, Business BASIC, FORTRAN IV, and DG/L languages; and the Command Line Interpreter, Text Editor, Macro Assembler, Library File Editor, and Symbolic Debugger utilities.□

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EQUIPMENT PRICES

		Purchase Price
PROCESSORS		
100-602	microNova mN602 microprocessor with multifunction instruction set, hardware stack and frame pointer, multiply/divide, real-time clock, 16-level priority interrupt, power fail/auto restart, standard and high-speed data channel, and support for up to 128K bytes of memory	$ 56*
MP/100 board-level computers include mN602 microprocessor, asynchronous interface, automatic program load, and soft control panel:		
8521-C	With 32K bytes of memory	1,300
8521-F	With 32K bytes of RAM memory and sockets for 32K bytes of EPROM memory	1,500
MP/100 packaged computers include MP/100 System Processing Unit (SPU), 8-slot chassis, asynchronous interface, and power supply:		
8520-A	With 8K bytes of memory	1,700
8520-D	With 64K bytes of memory	2,800
9062	With 64K bytes of memory, Dasher TP1 Printer, 10-megabyte disk subsystem, and half-bay cabinet	14,600
8671-D	MP/200 board-level computer with MP/200 System Processing Unit (SPU), 64K bytes of memory, and MP/100 board-level components	2,250
8670-D	Packaged MP/200 SPU with 64K bytes of memory, 8-slot chassis, asynchronous interface, and power supply	3,700

*In quantities of 100.